

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of using a shaped article to apply at least one scaffold-forming agent to an external skin and/or hair surface of a human or an animal, the method comprising:

step (a) providing a molded, freeze-dried, shaped article comprising having a volume of from approximately 0.1 cm³ to approximately 6 cm³ and a diameter of from approximately 3 mm to approximately 60 mm, wherein said shaped article comprises the at least one scaffold-forming agent, proteins being excepted, optionally one or more active substances and also optionally one or more auxiliary substances but does not contain any protein-based scaffold-forming agents;

step (b) contacting the shaped article with water or an aqueous solution comprising one or more active substances and/or auxiliary substances to form a solution or a gel comprising the scaffold-forming agent and at least one active substance and/or at least one auxiliary substance; and

step (c) applying the solution or the gel thus formed in the contacting step to an the external skin and/or hair surface of a the human or an the animal.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the scaffold-forming agent is at least one polysaccharide or a derivative thereof.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the scaffold-forming agent is sodium alginate.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the shaped article ~~has a volume of 0.1 cm³ to 6 cm³ and exhibits the~~ a geometrical shape of a sphere prior to the contacting step.

Claims 7-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein ~~in step (b), the shaped article is moistened with water or~~ contacted with an aqueous solution ~~of comprising~~ one or more active substances and/or auxiliary substances, ~~forming a gel, and is applied onto the skin or onto the hair.~~

Claims 11-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (new): The method according to claim 10, wherein the one or more active substances is selected from the group consisting of cosmetic active substances and pharmaceutical active substances.

Claim 16 (new): The method according to claim 10, wherein the one or more auxiliary substances is selected from the group consisting of washing surfactants, dispersing agents, emulsifiers, fillers, pH-adjusting agents, buffering substances, stabilisers, co-solvents, pharmaceutically and cosmetically conventional dyestuffs, pharmaceutically and cosmetically conventional pigments, preservatives, plasticizers, lubricants and slip additives.

Claim 17 (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein the shaped article further comprises one or more active substances and/or auxiliary substances.

Claim 18 (new): The method according to claim 17, wherein the one or more active substances is selected from the group consisting of cosmetic active substances and pharmaceutical active substances.

Claim 19 (new): The method according to claim 17, wherein the one or more auxiliary substances is selected from the group consisting of washing surfactants, dispersing agents, emulsifiers, fillers, pH-adjusting agents, buffering substances, stabilisers, co-solvents, pharmaceutically and cosmetically conventional dyestuffs, pharmaceutically and cosmetically conventional pigments, preservatives, plasticizers, lubricants and slip additives.

Claim 20 (new): The method according to claim 17, wherein the auxiliary substance is squalane.

Claim 21 (new): The method according to claim 17, wherein in step (b), the shaped article is contacted with an aqueous solution comprising one or more active substances and/or auxiliary substances.

Claim 22 (new): The method according to claim 21, wherein the one or more active substances in the aqueous solution is selected from the group consisting of cosmetic active substances and pharmaceutical active substances.